

## **Grounds for Disqualification of a Small Claims Court Judge**

You are disqualified to hear a small claims action if any one or more of the following are true [CCP §170.1]:

- ☐ You have personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding.
- ☐ You served as a lawyer in the current proceeding or, in any past proceeding involving the same issues, served as a lawyer for anyone now a party in the current proceeding, or you gave advice to any party in the current proceeding on any matter involved in the action or proceeding.
- ☐ You, your spouse, or your minor child residing with you has a financial interest in the subject matter of the proceeding or in a party to the proceeding.
- ☐ You, your spouse, a person within the third degree of relationship to either of you, or the spouse of such a person is a party to the proceeding or is an officer, director, or trustee of a party.
- ☐ For any reason,
  - you believe your recusal would further the interests of justice,
  - you believe there is substantial doubt about your capacity to be impartial, or
  - a person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that you would be able to be impartial.

Bias or prejudice toward a lawyer in the proceeding may be grounds for disqualification.

- ☐ By reason of permanent or temporary physical impairment, you are unable to properly perceive the evidence or unable to properly conduct the proceeding.